

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/058 W

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R 012045Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5415

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:GT, CI, AR, UY, PA, PN, BR, BH, PBOR, PFOR

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT SANDOVAL COMMENTS ON HIS S. AMERICAN TRIP

1. VICE-PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON RETURNED SEPT 26 FROM HIS SIX-NATION TOUR OF PANAMA, CHILE, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL AND GIVE PRESS CONF. SEPT 29 WHICH RECEIVED VERY LOW-KEY PRESS COVERAGE REFLECTING HIS STANDING AND INFLUENCE IN GOG.

2.SANDOVAL, ACCORDING TO WIDELY DIFFERING PRESS ACCOUNTS, SAID THAT WHILE HE IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENT OF CENTRAL AND S. AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RECOVER BELIZE "THOSE GOVTS AND PEOPLES ARE LOVERS OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY AND BECAUSE OF THIS ONE CANNOT BE ASSURED OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR A MILITARY SOLUTION."

HOWEVER, SANDOVAL DECLARED THAT SHOULD ACTION BECOME NECESSARY HE IS CONFIDENT THAT CENTRAL AMERICA WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED AS IT WAS WHEN ALL CONTRIBUTED TO A SOLID FRONT

IN NICARAGUA AGAINST WILLIAM WALKER IN 19TH CENTURY.

WHILE ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT SANDOVAL SAID THAT HE TRUSTED THAT NO GUATEMALAN WOULD VACILLATE IN DOING HIS DUTY WITH REGARD TO BELIZE SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY (ALTHOUGH HE HOPED SUCH A GRAVE SITUATION WOULD NOT OCCUR), ACCORDING TO ANOTHER ACCOUNT SANDOVAL HOPED BELIZE COULD BE RECOVERED WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE "AS SOME GUATEMALANS PROPOSE".

3. SANDOVAL'S REPORTED COMMENTS ON COUNTRIES HE VISITED WERE LIMITED TO ASSERTION THAT THEIR RELATIVE DEGREE OF BACKWARDNESS OR PROGRESS WAS TOTALLY A RESULT OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OR LACK THEREOF. SANDOVAL CREDITED CHILE WITH HAVING SUCCESSFULLY FREED ITSELF OF THIS "WICKEDNESS".

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SANDOVAL HAS CLAIMED HIS TRIP WAS A DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA'S CLAIM FOR BELIZE, MFA DIRECTOR OF BELIZE AFFAIRS, GVERNANDO SANCHEZ LAZO, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THERE WAS NO SUCH PRIOR PLANNING AND SANCHEZ HAD NOT HEARD OF A BELIZE CONNECTION TO THE TRIP UNTIL HE BEGAN TO READ THE PRESS REPORTS.
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